



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor  
Ian A. Bowles, Secretary  
Phil Giudice, Commissioner

## Navigating the Green Communities Program

Seth Pickering

Southeast Regional Coordinator  
Green Communities Division

Webinar

October 6, 2010

10:00 am

## Massachusetts: Cleaner Energy is Part of Our Future

### Priorities of the Patrick Administration:

- Global Warming Solutions Act
- Green Jobs Act
- Green Communities Act
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Renewables Investment
  - Creation of the Green Communities Division within DOER



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## Green Communities Division

Serves as the hub for all Massachusetts cities and towns on energy matters



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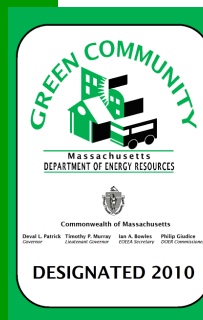


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## GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

### Qualification Criteria

1. Adopt as-of-right siting for RE/AE generation, R&D, or manufacturing
2. Adopt expedited permitting process
3. Create an Energy Reduction Plan to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles
5. Adopt Stretch Code or minimize life cycle cost



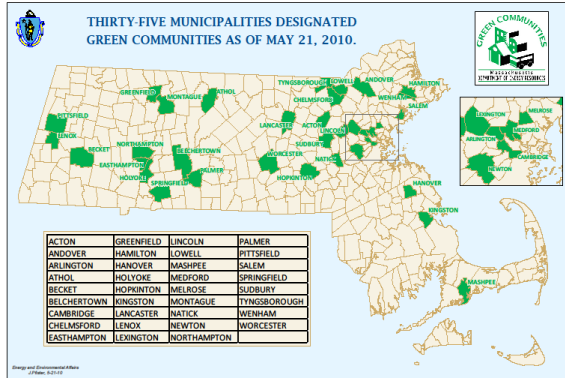
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## DESIGNATED GREEN COMMUNITIES



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## FY2010 GREEN COMMUNITIES

- 35 Green Communities
  - Population ranges from Becket (1,800) to Worcester (182,000)
  - Distributed across state
- Ten communities enacted as-of right zoning for renewable generation
  - Nine provide for ground mounted PV of 250 kW
  - Wenham and Kingston provide for wind of 600 kW
- 30 of 35 designees received planning assistance
- All 35 communities adopted the Stretch Code
- Due to number of designated communities and the amount of available funding, grants were allocated by a population/per capita income formula.



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## Green Community Award to Montague



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## Green Communities Designation and Grant Flowchart

Step 1

- Review Green Communities Designation Criteria Guidance
- Contact Your Green Communities Regional Coordinator

Step 2

- Discuss Green Communities Designation with Local Government
- Receive Local Approval to Apply for Green Communities Status

Step 3

- Meet the 5 Green Communities Criteria and Submit a Designation Application
- Receive Green Community Designation from DOER
- Apply for Green Community Grants



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## FY2011 DESIGNATION AND GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
Friday, October 15, 2010	Deadline for designation application preliminary consultations
Friday, November 19, 2010	Deadline for designation applications
Friday, December 17, 2010	Begin accepting grant applications
Friday, January 21, 2011	Deadline for grant applications

Application available at: <http://tiny.cc/GreenToolkit>



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## You Can Become A Green Community!



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## GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



### Qualification Criteria

1. As-of-Right Siting for RE/AE
2. Expedited Permitting
3. Energy Reduction Plan
4. Fuel-Efficient Vehicles
5. Minimize Life Cycle Costs



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## Criteria 1 – As-Of-Right Siting

For at least one of the following:

1. Renewable or Alternative Energy Generating Facilities or;
2. Renewable or Alternative Energy Research and Development (R&D) Facilities or;
3. Renewable or Alternative Energy Manufacturing Facilities in designated locations.



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### Criteria 1 – As-Of-Right Siting / Generation

1. On-Shore Wind – A minimum of a 600 kW turbine
2. Off-Shore Wind – A minimum of a 2.5 MW turbine
3. Solar Photovoltaic – A single ground-mounted system of a minimum of 250 kW
4. Biomass CHP - A minimum of 5 MW in a stand-alone building
5. Ocean, Wave or Tidal – no minimum threshold

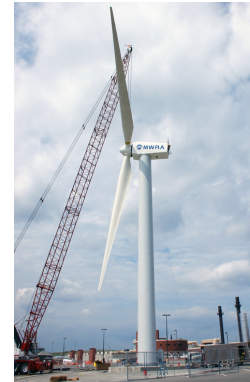


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### Criteria 1 – 600 kW Wind Turbine



600 kW Wind Turbine at  
MWRA's Deer Island  
Wastewater Treatment Facility



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### Criteria 1 – As-Of Right Siting



250 kW Ground-Mounted Solar PV



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### Criteria 1 – As-of-Right Siting / Generation



#### Documentation for Criteria #1 for Generation:

1. Brief description of by-law
2. Identification of designated locations
3. Copy of bylaw or ordinance
4. Site Plan Review language so that DOER can confirm that review is non-discretionary
5. Copy of zoning map that shows area zoned



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## Criteria 1 – As-of-Right Siting / Mfg and R&D



### Documentation for Criteria #1 for Mfg or R&D:

1. Applicable section of its zoning bylaw/ordinance
2. Copy of zoning map that shows area zoned
3. Important zoning definitions
4. Relevant section of the use table and any key that will help DOER interpret the use table
5. Any related local regulations applicable to facilities sited under the bylaw/ordinance—such as site plan review regulations—so that DOER can confirm that the related local regulations are non-discretionary; AND
6. Yield calculations, either included in the text of the letter or attached.

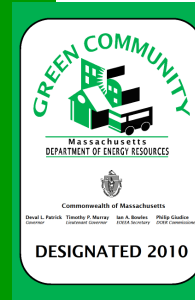


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## GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



### Qualification Criteria

1. As-of-Right Siting for RE/AE
2. **Expedited Permitting**
3. Energy Reduction Plan
4. Fuel-Efficient Vehicles
5. Minimize Life Cycle Costs



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## Criteria 2 – Expedited Permitting



### 12 months: date of initial application to date of final decision

1. Applies only to the proposed facilities subject to the as-of-right siting provision.
2. Can apply the MGL c 43D permitting process to these zoning districts



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## Criteria 2 – Expedited Permitting



### Documentation for Criteria #2:

1. A letter from legal counsel:
    - Affirm no preclusions for expedited permitting
    - Include language addressing approval procedures
    - Associated timing from any applicable bylaws/ordinances or regulations.
  2. A copy of the applicable map(s) showing that the areas where the expedited permitting applies coincides with the as-of-right zoned areas for Criteria 1.
- OR
1. MGL c43D
    - A certified copy of their City Council or Town Meeting vote designating the as-of-right zoned parcel(s) as a Priority Development Site
    - A copy of the applicable map(s) showing the areas where the expedited permitting applies

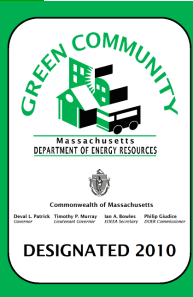


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## GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



### Qualification Criteria

1. As-of-Right Siting for RE/AE
2. Expedited Permitting
- 3. Energy Reduction Plan**
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## Criteria 3 – Energy Baseline & 20% Energy Reduction Plan



Calculate an energy use baseline inventory that includes:

- Municipal buildings, including schools
- Vehicles
- Street and traffic lighting (if municipally-owned)



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## Criteria 3 – Energy Tracking Tools

### Monitoring: Electricity Use



- DOER's MassEnergyInsight ([www.massenergyinsight.net](http://www.massenergyinsight.net))
- EnergyStar Portfolio Manager
- ICLEI software
- Any other tools must be pre-approved by DOER

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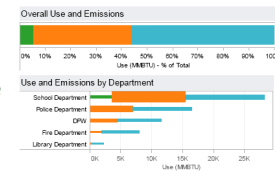
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## MassEnergyInsight

POWERING EFFICIENCY

- FREE online tool for MA cities, towns & RSD
- 144 towns are current users
- Electronic download of utility data
- All energy costs and accounts in one place
- Standard and custom reporting
- Identify your least efficient energy users
- Track your energy savings by fuel type
- Create GHG emissions reductions reports



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[www.massenergyinsight.net](http://www.massenergyinsight.net)

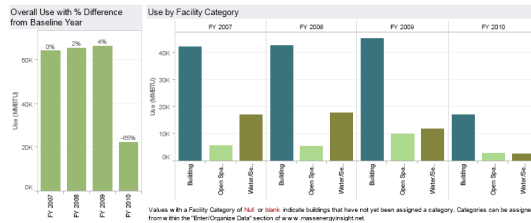
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### Criteria 3 – Energy Baseline & 20% Energy Reduction Plan

Create a comprehensive energy reduction plan designed to reduce energy use by 20 percent within 5 years of the baseline year.

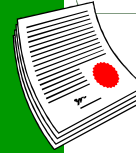


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### Criteria 3 – Energy Baseline & 20% Energy Reduction Plan



#### Documentation for Criteria #3:

1. Inventory tool
2. Baseline year
3. Energy use inventory
4. Specific energy conservation measures to be implemented with expected energy reductions and a timeline
5. Documentation that both the general government and local school district have adopted the energy reduction plan.
  - If a regional school district is included as part of the designation, documentation that the regional school district has adopted the plan must be included.



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### GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



#### Qualification Criteria

1. As-of-Right Siting for RE/AE
2. Expedited Permitting
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5. Minimize Life Cycle Costs



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### Criteria 4 – Fuel Efficient Vehicles



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### Criteria 4 – Fuel Efficient Vehicles

1. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.
2. Police cruisers are exempt until commercially available.
3. Heavy-duty vehicles > 8,500 pounds are exempt.



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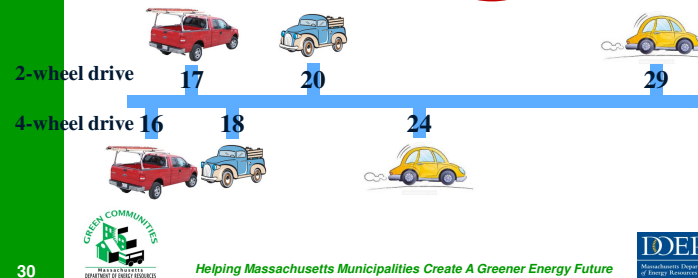


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### Criteria 4 – Fuel Efficient Vehicles

Based on 2009 and 2008 EPA data, vehicles are to have a combined city and highway MPG ≥



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### Criteria 4 – Fuel Efficient Vehicles

#### Documentation for Criteria #4:



1. Copy of the policy or other mechanism adopted for purchasing only fuel efficient vehicles
2. Inventory of non-exempt vehicles (model, year, estimated mpg) with plan for replacements with fuel efficient vehicles
3. Documentation that both the municipality and the local school district (not RSDs) have adopted the fuel efficient vehicle policy.

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## Criteria 5 – Minimize Life Cycle Costs



Require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies.

The DOER recommended way for cities and towns to meet this requirement is by adopting the BBRS Stretch Code (780 CMR 120.AA) an appendix to the MA State Building Code.

- In a town, the Stretch Code must be adopted as a general bylaw by its Town Meeting.
- In a city, the Stretch Code must be adopted by the City Council, preferably by general ordinance.

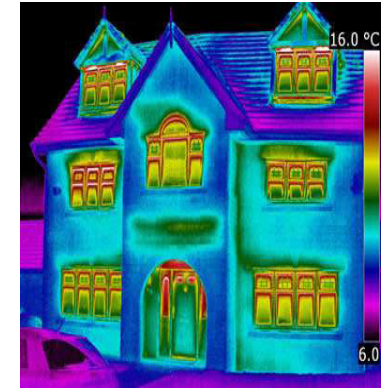


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## Criteria 5 – Minimize Life Cycle Costs



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## Criteria 5 – Minimize Life Cycle Costs



### Documentation for Criteria #5:

- Stretch Energy Code
  - Documentation of the city council or town meeting vote adopting 780 CMR 120.AA, MA Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Energy Code.
- Local Process
  - Documentation of the standard adopted, the mechanism in place for requiring this criterion for new construction, and how this standard provides reduced life-cycle energy costs.

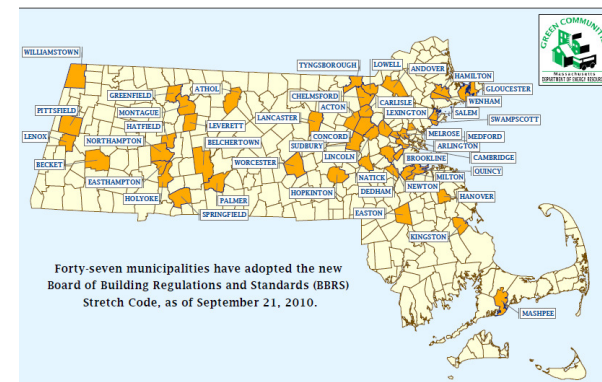


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## Stretch Code Communities



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## Green Communities Division Programs & Resources for Municipalities

- Green Communities Grant and Planning Assistance Program
- MassEnergyInsight System
- Municipal Energy Efficiency Program
- Energy Performance Contracting Technical Assistance
- ARRA Stimulus Funding
- Website filled with tools & resources for municipalities:  
[www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities](http://www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities)
- Email updates via listserv – Sign up today by send an email to:  
[join-ene-greencommunities@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-ene-greencommunities@listserv.state.ma.us)



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## OUTREACH - REGIONAL COORDINATORS

- Regional Coordinators act as direct liaisons with cities and towns on energy efficiency and renewable energy activities
- Located at each of the DEP Regional Offices:
  - SERO – LAKEVILLE: Seth Pickering
    - [Seth.Pickering@state.ma.us](mailto:Seth.Pickering@state.ma.us)
  - NERO – WILMINGTON: Joanne Bissetta:
    - [Joanne.Bissetta@state.ma.us](mailto:Joanne.Bissetta@state.ma.us)
  - CERO – WORCESTER: Kelly Brown
    - [Kelly.Brown@state.ma.us](mailto:Kelly.Brown@state.ma.us)
  - WERO – SPRINGFIELD: Jim Barry
    - [Jim.Barry@state.ma.us](mailto:Jim.Barry@state.ma.us)



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## Questions

- The webinar was recorded and will be available for viewing at your convenience. It will be posted on our website at:  
[www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities](http://www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities)
- The slide presentation will also be posted at:  
[www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities](http://www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities)



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